



Juvenile Sexual Abusers

- ✓ ***Characteristics***
- ✓ ***Typologies***
- ✓ ***Assessment***
- ✓ ***Treatment***

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Statistics

(FBI, 1998)

Juvenile Sexual Abusers Committed.....

- **15.8% Forcible Rapes**
- **17% Other Sex Offenses**

Juveniles account for....

- ☐ as much as 30% of the reported cases of child sexual abuse
- ☐ almost 1/2 of all cases of child molestation committed each year - 16,100 arrested for sexual offenses in 1995 (excluding rape and prostitution)
- ☐ up to 1/5th of all rapes - 18 adolescents per 100,000 (ages 10-17) arrested for forcible rape in 1995

(Finkelhor, 1994; Sickmund et al, 1997; Shaw, 2000)

Recidivism Rates (arrests)

Sexual Re-offense 2% to 19%

Non-Sexual Offense 16% to 54%

Characteristics of Juvenile Sexual Abusers

- Adolescent males age 13 to 17 account for vast majority of offenses perpetrated by minors
- Only 16% are under the age of 12
- In the 80's, females represented 5% to 8% of sexual offenses – it is likely a higher % now
- Juveniles referred to treatment are a cross-section of the general population.

Nationwide Study of 756 Juvenile Male Child Molesters (mean age 15)

Race	Frequency	Percent
Hispanic	80	10.5 %
African-American	89	11.6 %
Caucasian	504	65.9 %
Asian-American	8	1.1 %
Native American	33	4.3 %
Other	48	6.6%

Characteristics of Juvenile Sexual Abusers

Child Maltreatment.....

- History of physical abuse 20 to 50%
- Sexual abuse 40 to 80%
 - *the younger the age of victimization, the greater probability that the victim will engage in sexually inappropriate behavior in the future*
- Rates of physical and sexual abuse are higher for pre-pubescent and young female sexual abusers

Characteristics of Juvenile Sexual Abusers

Child Maltreatment.....

Research suggests the age of onset of the abuse, number of incidents of abuse, the period of time elapsing between the abuse and its first report, as well as perception of familial responses to awareness of the abuse are all relevant in understanding why some victims go on to commit sexual assaults while others do not.

Characteristics of Juvenile Sexual Abusers

▪ Exposure to Aggressive Role Models.....

Exposure to family violence is linked to the likelihood of sexually offending as an adolescent as well as severity of psychosexual disturbance

▪ Exposure to Pornography.....

Sexual abusers are exposed to porn at a younger age and have viewed more "hard core" porn

* Pornography more likely contributes to sexual offenses as a disinhibitor or trigger. It may not be causative.

Characteristics of Juvenile Sexual Abusers

▪ Higher rates of learning disabilities and academic dysfunction – 30 to 60%

▪ Presence of behavioral health problems including substance abuse and conduct disorder – up to 80% have a diagnosable psychiatric disorder

▪ Problems with impulse control and judgment

Characteristics of Juvenile Sexual Abusers

Paraphilic (Deviant) Sexual Arousal and Interest Patterns

- The minority of sexually abusive youths have deviant sexual arousal.
- A small subset of juveniles who offend against children may represent cases of early onset of pedophilia.
- Highest levels of deviant arousal found with those juveniles who exclusively target male children.

Sibling Incest Abusers

- More serious offending history
- Less likely to receive court ordered treatment
- More family dysfunction and physical abuse

Typologies of Male Juvenile Sex Offenders

(O'Brien)

- ❖ Naïve experimenters
- ❖ Undersocialized child exploiters
- ❖ Sexual aggressives
- ❖ Sexual compulsives
- ❖ Group influenced
- ❖ Pseudosocialized

(Graves)

- ❖ Pedophilia
- ❖ Sexual assault
- ❖ Undifferentiated

Typologies of Male Juvenile Sex Offenders

(Prentky)

- ❖ Child molesters
- ❖ Rapists
- ❖ Sexually reactive children
- ❖ Juvenile delinquents
- ❖ Deviant arousal offender
- ❖ Psychopathic offender

(Weinrott)

- ❖ Juvenile delinquents
- ❖ Deviant arousal
- ❖ Psychopathic offenders
- ❖ No classification

Characteristics of Female Sexual Abusers

- At least 5% to 8% of all offenses
- Tend to be younger than male abusers
- More likely victims of sexual abuse
- More likely to have experienced multiple types of abuse
- Abused by more than one offender

Characteristics of Female Sexual Abusers

- Typically victimize younger children
- Some studies indicate victims are primarily family members
- Usually not referred to court
- Higher rates of drug abuse & promiscuity
- Higher rates of depression, anxiety, suicide, poor self-concept

Juvenile Sexual Abuser Assessment

Sex-Specific Assessment Tools

- Multiphasic Sexual Inventory-II-Juvenile
- Penile Plethysmograph (PPG)
- Abel Assessment *for sexual interest*
- Clinical Polygraph

Phallometry (PPG)

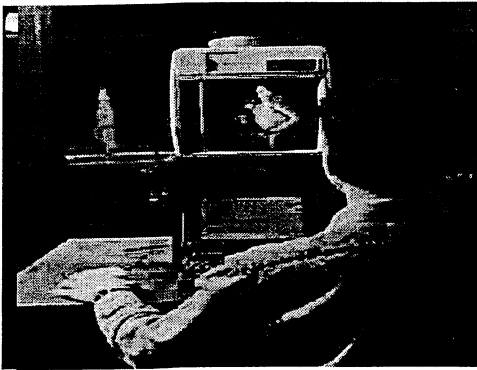
Helps to differentiate -

- Age preferences
- Behavioral preferences
- Gender preferences

Note: Rarely used with juveniles under 15 years of age

Abel Assessment for sexual interest

- Less intrusive than PPG
- Measures sexual interest through Visual Reaction Time (VRT)
- Measures sexual interest in children, adolescents, and adults
- Self-report questionnaire on 21 different paraphilias



Clinical Polygraph

Types –

- Incident Offense Exam
- Sexual History Exam
- Maintenance/Supervision Exam

Risk Assessment of Sexual Recidivism

- ❖ Actuarial Risk Assessment Procedures
- ❖ Dynamic Risk Assessment Procedures
- ❖ Clinical Risk Assessment Procedures

Risk Assessment Tools

- ❖ **J-SOAP** — *Juvenile Sex Offender Assessment Protocol*
- ❖ **SAVRY** — *Structured Assessment of Violent Risk in Youth*
- ❖ **JCA** — *Juvenile Culpability Assessment*
- ❖ **ERASOR** — *Estimate of Risk of Adolescent Sexual Offense Recidivism*
- ❖ **Clinical Factors & Experience**

Actuarial Measures

Problems estimating recidivism with juveniles include:

- ✓ Short duration of follow-up
- ✓ Difficulty accessing record
- ✓ Under-reporting
- ✓ Recidivism as an adult may not be tracked

Juvenile Sex Offender Assessment Protocol (J-SOAP)

Looks at.....

- *Sexual Drive/Preoccupation Factor*
- *Impulsive/Antisocial Factor*
- *Clinical/Treatment Factor*
- *Community Stability/Adjustment Factor*

Structured Assessment of Violent Risk in Youth (SAVRY)

Looks at...

- **Historical Risk Factors** (violence, abuse, school problems)
- **Social/Contextual Risk Factors** (peers, social support, poor parenting)
- **Individual/Clinical Risk Factors** (attitude, impulsivity, ADHD, substance abuse)
- **Protective Factors** (social involvement & support, attachments, attitude toward intervention & authority, commitment to school, resilient personality)

Dynamic and Clinical Measures

Juvenile Culpability Assessment (JCA)

-16 item test of clinical scales measuring:

- ❖ Intellectual culpability
- ❖ Social culpability
- ❖ Sexual culpability
- ❖ Criminal culpability

Dynamic and Clinical Measures

Estimate of Risk of Adolescent Sexual Offense Recidivism (ERASOR)

– Looks at 25 risk factors in the following domains:

- ☐ Sexual Interests, Attitudes, & Behaviors
- ☐ Historical Sexual Assaults
- ☐ Psychosocial Functioning
- ☐ Family/Environmental Functioning
- ☐ Treatment

Treatment for Juvenile Sex Offenders

- Multisystemic Treatment (MST)
- Family Therapy
- Individual Therapy
- Group Therapy –
 - Cognitive Behavior/Relapse Prevention
 - Educational Labs
 - Behavior Labs
 - Medication
 - Process Group (Skills Application)

Treatment

Sex-offender-specific treatment is not traditional psychotherapy!

- ♦ Victim and community safety is first
- ♦ Involuntary
- ♦ Containment Approach
- ♦ More challenging
- ♦ Group format
- ♦ Self-management through relapse prevention techniques
- ♦ Alters sex drive
- ♦ Specific treatment requirements

The Sex Offender Solutions (S.O.S.) Program

- Thorough and comprehensive assessment
- Educational Labs (Skills Acquisition)
- Behavior Labs
- Medication
- Process Group (Skills Application)
- Maintenance Groups

The End
